



For Immediate Release

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East Hartford LED Conversion Complete

(July 20, 2015) **East Hartford, CT**– Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc announced today that the completion of a six-month project to retrofit the Town's nearly 5,000 streetlights with new energy-efficient LED fixtures has been completed. Ameresco provided design services and crews from Total Energy Electric of Wolcott, Connecticut provided exceptional service, working throughout the winter to install the new lights.

The new fixtures are free of mercury and other toxic chemicals, easy to maintain and more durable than glass high-pressure sodium lightbulbs, making them resistant to impact and vandalism. Unlike the previous High Pressure Sodium fixtures, LED fixtures do not burn out all at once providing a more reliable source of light. A typical LED fixture will last about 15 years before needing replacement as opposed to high-pressure sodium lights which typically last only 6 years. Light quality makes a huge difference for first responders and the new LED fixtures provide clear, white light that makes colors easily distinguishable at night.

"Safety of our residents and businesses is a top priority," noted Mayor Marcia Leclerc. "With this project completed, our streets will be better lit and our town will be more energy efficient as a result."

The project is a triple bottom line winner for the Town. The budget savings, increased safety and reduced greenhouse gas emissions that result from this project will make East Hartford more sustainable. The Town paid no upfront costs for the project and is expected to save over

\$300,000 per year in energy, operations and maintenance costs which will be used to finance the upgrade.

Residents should be aware that streetlight outages will be addressed as quickly as possible, in most cases within a week, but it may take up to several months depending on the type of repair necessary, fabrication and shipping time for poles and fixtures, and project backlog.

Streetlight outages or questions should be directed to the Department of Public Works at (860) 291-7361 or morzolek@easthartfordct.gov. After-hours emergency situations involving downed poles or power lines should be reported to the East Hartford Police Department. Information is also available on the website www.easthartfordct.gov

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